The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5, NO. 30. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1915. WHOLE NO. 238.

WHY PACIFIC MAIL SOLD; BIG PROFITS WAS CAUSE

Washington, Oct. 23.—The Pacific Mail Steamship company refused to give the new seamen's law a fair test and withdrew from the Pacific trade because it could sell five steamers at a profit of more than $1,000,000.

These charges are made by Secretary of Commerce Redfield in answer to the claim of Pacific Mail officials that they were compelled to sell their vessels and withdraw from the far eastern trade because of the seamen's law.

The Pacific Mail company objected particularly to the language clause of the seamen's law, which it held would require the abandonment of Asiatic crews, with a consequent prohibitive cost of wage and food.

Secretary Redfield declares, however, the department had not prepared regulations for the enforcement of the law when the steamers were sold, and the owners of the company did not seek to learn the spirit in which the law would be administered, but acted on an assumed interpretation of the law which had no official sanction.

Moreover, Secretary Redfield said he wrote R. P. Schwerin, general manager of the company, and assured him that the department would not put the construction on the language test that the company had put upon it, and suggested that the company give the law a six months' trial before sacrificing its business.

In announcing his conclusion that the company was not forced out of business but sold out at a profit, Secretary Redfield charged that the Pacific Mail company was "heavily overcapitalized." The last two years had been the most prosperous in the firm's history, the secretary declared, and since April its ships have left thousands of tons of freight behind them at ports which they were unable to carry.

"It was from this prosperous business the company withdrew without asking any questions," Secretary Redfield added.

The sale of the five Pacific Mail steamers for $3,750,000, Secretary Redfield said, shows "an apparent profit in excess of a million dollars" over what the normal valuation of the boats would have been at 5 per cent depreciation charges. The fact that the company's stock sold for 18 last March and for 35 in August, after sale of the boats, is held significant.

STREET CAR MEN STRIKE.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Oct. 23.—A strike of car men against the Wilkes-Barre Railway company is the result of futile negotiations by the workers and a changed decision by the third member of the board of arbitration—State Commissioner of Labor Jackson.

Last January the men demanded wage increases, and after repeated failures to select arbiters a strike was called April 1. After a nine days' suspension, both sides agreed on a board, with State Commissioner of Labor Jackson as umpire. The men's representative refused to sign the award, which provided for a sliding scale and a reduction of wages. The claim that the board had no right to establish a sliding scale was later upheld by Umpire Jackson and the board withdrew the decision. The company refused to agree to any change and refused to meet the international officers of the street car men's union.

CORSET WORKERS WIN.

Springfield, Mass., Oct. 23.—Employes of the Bay State Corset company have won their strike. The company agrees to recognize representatives of the employes and where differences cannot be settled the dispute shall be referred to the state board of arbitration and conciliation. The fining system is abolished and rates are to be adjusted so that operatives can earn as much in 48 hours as they formerly earned in 54 hours. If the new prices do not work satisfactorily, an effort will be made to readjust them. Taxes for needles and wax are abolished. This means an additional gain of at least 75 cents a week. The strike also developed a strong trade union for these workers.

GOVERNMENT LAND OPENED.

Washington, Oct. 23.—The government has opened for settlement 110,000 acres in the former Fort Berthold reservation, North Dakota. The applicants, with the exception of war veterans, must register in person at either Minot, Bismarck, or Plaza, North Dakota.

The lands north and east of the Missouri river in Mountrail and McLean counties have been appraised at $2.50 to $8 per acre. They contain coal, which will be reserved for the Fort Berthold Indians.

The drawing commences Nov. 4, 1915, and the entries, not exceeding 160-acre tracts, will be allowed commencing May 1, 1916.

PREDICTS SUPERMEN.

Chicago, Oct. 23.—According to Lawrence Veiller, director of the New York committee on the prevention of tuberculosis, the race of supermen, healthy, vigorous and of aspiring mental powers, is actually on the way.

"It is a question of education, of expelling ignorant and vicious customs, of teaching wholesome living," said Mr. Veiller. "The work done among infants, especially, has been encouraging, and a finer, stronger stock is on the way with each new generation. The immense progress which has been made against tuberculosis forecasts the day when the race will be free of the white plague."

FEW FREIGHT CARS IDLE.

Philadelphia, Oct. 23.—Fast expanding industrial activity and continued heavy export trade have brought a car shortage within near range of possibility, says the North American.

Last April there were 327,000 idle freight cars in the United States. The American Railway association reports that on October 1 there were only 78,000 cars not currently needed.

When it is realized that there are about 2,600,000 freight cars on the various railroads it becomes apparent that the present surplus, equal to only 2 per cent, is a very small margin.

EIGHT-HOURS NEXT MAY.

Yonkers, N. Y., Oct. 23.—The Otis Elevator company announces that an eight-hour day will be the rule for its 2,000 employes beginning next May. The workers will continue for six months under the present nine-hour day.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY GRANTED.

Braddock, Pa., Oct. 23.—Employes of the Pittsburgh Machine Tool company have returned to work, the management agreeing to an eight-hour day with no wage reductions.

BUTTE WORKERS ARE UNIONISTS

Butte, Mont., Oct. 23.—"We are working out our own destiny in our own way and need no dictators," says the Free Lance of this city in an editorial reviewing the Butte labor movement after its survival of many recent spectacular dissensions.

This paper says:

"Yes, the so-called ultra-conservatives, into whose hands the labor movement has fallen, are the same men who gained for labor the conditions it now enjoys, which are superior to any in any other community on the North American continent.

"The labor unions are not misled by mirages, nor are they chasing phantoms; they believe in securing conditions for the worker here. And now they are not going to change to false prophets or false gods, nor will they be deluded by the sophistries or false promises of men who neither can nor will assist them. The trade unionists of this community are not going to be severed from the path which experience and results attained has taught them to be the only one that can guarantee them better conditions in life, namely their economic movement, and the economic movement is not going to pull anybody's chestnuts out of the fire. We have enough to do to attend to our own business and cannot and will not be cajoled into being an auxiliary to any other organization, be it political, fraternal or social."

SHOULD BAR ILLITERATES.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 23.—"Nothing to gain from illiterates," is the caption of an editorial in the British Columbia Federationist on the need for every worker being able to read and write in some language or tongue. The paper says:

"Men who are not able to read and write in some language or tongue, are minus the two most important mediums through which the aspirations of organized labor can be imparted to them.

"It sounds very plausible to say that despite their shortcomings in the matter of literacy, they still know how to put their cross in the right space on a ballot form. But to do that they must be told what to do, and any man who has to be told such a thing does not commend himself to us as a quantity which those who are trying to secure working class representation in legislative bodies can rely upon for much intelligent support. Illiteracy is ignorance of the most fundamental kind, and we cannot see that it has a single feature from which organized labor can expect any permanent good results. Literacy is knowledge; knowledge is only power when those who have it know how to use it to give them power."

REAL CHARITY.

San Francisco, Oct. 23.—The Labor Clarion makes this statement in its editorial columns:

"Last week the editor of this journal received a registered letter from Nevada containing a gold nugget found in Copper Creek canyon, and a simple note saying: 'Give this to some jeweler to mount, then raffle it off for the benefit of the two laundry girls who lost their hands by being caught in mangles.' Who sent the letter is a mystery, because it was signed, 'Only An Agitator.' There is a spirit displayed in this gift that is truly admirable. No notoriety is sought, no praise desired and no thanks wanted other than the satisfaction that comes to a soul conscious of having done good. Conjure up in your mind a picture of a lonely prospector out in the mountains of Nevada, living on bread and bacon, yet with a heart that beats in genuine sympathy for unfortunates in a distant city, and you will probably have a prototype of the nugget-sending agitator. Blessed, indeed, would the world be were we all like him. The nugget has been turned over to the Laundry Workers' union."

SAFEGUARDS PROTECT LIFE.

Olympia, Wash., Oct. 23.—State statistics covering the twelve months ending September 30, show the value of accident prevention work by factory inspectors who insist upon the installation of guards on all dangerous machinery. Of the 188 fatal accidents upon which final settlements were made under the industrial insurance act, only 30 were attributed to mechanical causes, and of these 17 were due to logging railroad operations, leaving only 13 deaths attributed to machinery in shops or factories.

Rolling logs caused 35 deaths, and falling trees killed 24 persons. These were the most frequent causes of fatal accidents reported during the year, while the total number of accidents has been reduced to 13,162 and fatalities to 215.

GIRLS WIN STRIKE.

Elizabeth, N. J., Oct. 23.—A branch of the American Tobacco company has increased the wages of its girl workers 1 cent per 100 cigars—after the girls conducted a most successful strike. The increase means an additional $1 a week to these workers, whose pay is yet miserably low.

Machinists employed by the Watson-Sullivan company have returned to work after a four weeks' strike. Wages are increased 2 cents an hour.

RESULTS OF MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Oct. 23.—County Judge Zwick says the mothers' pension law, in force in this state, has "opened my eyes to a wonderful amount of misery and decripitude" because of the large number of women who cannot be aided by the law which provides that a widow must have a continuous two years' residence in a county before making application or her husband must be either dead or in a prison or asylum.

STRIKE IS SETTLED.

Torrington, Conn., Oct. 23.—Representatives of the United States department of labor were successful in settling the six weeks' strike between the Hendey Machine company and its employes. The workers have secured a 15 per cent increase in the hourly wage rate, a 54-hour week and time and a half for overtime. Several hundred men are effected.

DELAWARE STRIKE IS OFF.

Wilmington, Del., Oct. 23.—The strike of several hundred sheet metal workers has been declared off by these workers, who announce that a satisfactory agreement has been reached with the duPont company. The strikers demanded an eight-hour day and wage increases.

"LABOR IS NO COMMODITY."

Dallas, Tex., Oct. 23.—At a meeting of the Dallas Labor Temple association it was decided that this inscription should be arranged in a circle on a stone in front of the building: "Labor is no commodity."

It is expected that unions will occupy the new structure by December 1.

ROCKEFELLER PLAN WOULD FIT CHILDREN

Denver, Oct. 23.—The Rockefeller plan of settling disputes with employes might be feasible if these workers were children, but to grown men the scheme is repugnant. This is the verdict of a committee representing the international executive board, United Mine Workers of America, now in charge of Colorado affairs.

The committee says:

"The calm assurance on the part of the company that the result of the joint conference was a foregone conclusion speaks eloquently of their firm conviction that the 'plan' to work at all, must work in harmony with their desires.

"The great fundamentad principles of industrial democracy, and the right of collective bargaining, which alone can guarantee to the Colorado worker his civil and political liberties, have no place in the document that has been so elaborately prepared by Mr. Rockefeller and his associates, for the future guidance of his silent and apparently non-consulted partners in the mining camps of southern Colorado.

"The plan fails to provide for meetings or conventions of the miners except locally, and by doing so insures company domination of its workings.

"All meetings except local mine meetings are to be joint meetings where the company will have equal representation, thus eliminating the danger of the collective action that might result if the men from several mines met together free from company influence.

"The evils that are fundamental will be eradicated when the men are represented by a labor organization powerful enough to compel recognition of the industrial, political and civic rights of its members, and capable of writing these principles into the joint agreement along with the rights claimed by the employer.

"Had the employes of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company been so many children of tender age, the paternal control they seek to exercise through the medium of the 'plan' would be proper; to grown men of independent thought in a nation that boasts of its free institutions, it cannot be other than repugnant.

"A certain degree of social betterment is a poor substitute for the privileges that can only be secured through industrial democracy and collective action on the part of the wage workers."

ROCKEFELLER IN WYOMING.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Oct. 23.—The Wyoming Labor Journal makes this comment on the visit of John D. Rockefeller, jr., to his properties at Sunrise, this state:

"Mr. Rockefeller failed to make the favorable impression among the workers at Sunrise that was anticipated. In an address to the workers he advised them to steer clear of agitators and not make any demands for a raise in wages, assuring them that the company, when it thought a raise was justified, would grant the same 'voluntarily.'

"An effort to interest Mr. Rockefeller in a high school for the camp proved futile but later efforts may prove more successful. For the first time in their existence some of the company houses are being painted and there appears to be a disposition to improve housing conditions.

"Those workers in Sunrise who have been expecting some definite announcements from Mr. Rockefeller concerning a raise in wages were sadly disappointed, as the present wage rate will hold till January, 1917, at which time, if the workers have not organized to present their claims it will be continued in force. The Sunrise workers must awaken to the fact that only by a thorough organization will they be able to achieve the betterments they are entitled to. Mr. Rockefeller will never give any concessions that are not wrung from him by the unrest of his employes or an awakened public sentiment."

OPPOSE SO-CALLED "M. O."

Detroit, Oct. 23.—The Detroit federation of labor has announced its opposition to the proposed municipal ownership plan that will be voted on next month, and has appointed a committee to make this protest effective.

Among the more prominent objections is the denial of the people's representatives to pass upon the work of the commission that will manage the property and a failure to provide for arbitration in disputes with employes, thereby making the commission dictators in the matter of wages and working conditions.

Detroit unionists insist that they favor municipal ownership of street cars, but not the kind they are now called upon to accept.

WOULD CURB EXAMINATIONS.

Mansfield, O., Oct. 23.—The state federation of labor convention, in session here last week, called the attention of the state industrial commission to the practice of employers relative to physical examinations. The unionists declared that these examinations should be curbed as they throw out of employment many who are fitted for certain classes of work.

President Voll and Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly were re-elected. Toledo was selected as the next convention city.

WILL PROBE UNEMPLOYMENT.

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 23.—Gov. Dunne has appointed President Walker, of the state federation of labor; President Fitzpatrick, of the Chicago federation of labor, and Mrs. Raymond Robins members of a commission of nine to investigate unemployment in this state. The commission is to report to the governor and the general assembly, submitting a bill or bills, designed to correct unemployment evils in Illinois.

NON-UNIONISTS DISMISSED.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 23.—A board of arbitration in the dispute between unionists employed on the free bridge and city officials has ruled that all non-unionists shall be dismissed. The unionists were not supported in their demand that certain foremen, who boasted of their association with strikebreakers, should also be relieved.

OPPOSES COMPULSION.

Joliet, Ill., Oct. 23.—Compulsory arbitration was opposed by Secretary of Labor Wilson in an address before the annual convention of the Illinois Bankers' association. The speaker said that the remedy for industrial differences was not to be found in strikes or lockouts, but in amicable conferences between the interested parties.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Cincinnati, Oct. 23.—Machinists employed by the Corcoran Lamp company and the Globe Automatic Sprinkler company have secured the eight-hour day.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL WASHINGTON

OPPOSES ILLEGAL STRIKES

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 23.—In a circular issued to the miners of the Illinois district, President Farrington denounces the tendency in certain sections of the state to start unauthorized strikes in violation of an agreement with employers. The union official calls attention to the constitutional penalties for such action, and makes these declarations:

"Such action never has won a single permanent concession for the Illinois miners' union, while it has brought discredit to the organization, made its expansion unnecessarily difficult, and has caused positive injury to the thousands of men who have confidence in the organization and who respect its policies and laws. Therefore, I kindly but firmly warn those who do not seem to have that confidence and respect that the practice of shutting down mines in violation of the agreement must be stopped—otherwise the penalty will be applied.

"To plead for and accept clemency for the offenders would mean that the operator would, some time, expect clemency in return, and I do not propose to plead with the operator to show clemency to men who wilfully disregard our policies and laws, and thereby compromise myself in a way that will not allow me to uncompromisingly demand of the operator everything that the joint agreement gives to our members."

HAVE EMPLOYERS A BLACKLIST?

Worcester, Mass., Oct. 23.—While the state board of conciliation and arbitration was holding a hearing on the strike of machinists against the Leland-Gifford company, John W. Olson, former foreman at that plant, placed the following letter to him, signed by the Putnam Machine company, Fitchburg, Mass., in evidence:

"Regarding the matter of employment, which we talked over last week, will say that after getting in touch with the Leland-Gifford company, will say that we are somewhat disappointed to learn that they consider you as one of the strikers. In view of this fact, perhaps it will be better to drop the matter of employment for the present."

Olson proved a strong witness for the strikers. He told the commission that he did not go out with the machinists when they walked out of the plant at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of Sept. 27, but was called to the office at 5:30 o'clock the same afternoon and discharged.

Albert J. Gifford, of the struck plant, said he was a member of the Metal Trades association for two or three years and he approved their principles. He never figured out the cost to the company in dealing with employes collectively or individually. He did not know the cost, and from actual experience did not know anything about where industrial bargaining took place.

He refused to accept the commission's suggestion that the strike be arbitrated, and stated that he made no distinction between unionists and nonunionists, but "if he had a preference," he would prefer that his employes did not belong to a union.

WANTS REAL COMPENSATION.

Dayton, O., Oct. 23.—Ex-Gov. Cox opposes the ruling by State Commissioner of Insurance Taggart which permits private liability insurance companies to write compensation in competition with the state fund.

The former state official says:

"If it is necessary now to preserve the plain intent of the compensation law and its blessings to our people by writing an inhibition against this infamous thing into the constitution, then I volunteer my services as a private citizen to lead the fight for a final and lasting victory in this great cause."

The commissioner's ruling is now being contested by the state federation of labor, which has secured counsel and will appeal to the state supreme court.

FAVORS HIGHER WAGES.

Washington, Oct. 23.—Increased pay for civilian employes of the bureau of supplies and accounts of the navy department is urged by Paymaster General McGowan, in his annual report. In the last 18 months 30 per cent of the civilian force has resigned to accept better positions. Increases aggregating $7,780, or a scant 7 per cent of the present civilian salary list is asked.

VOTING ON FEDERATION.

Boston, Oct. 23.—A referendum vote is being polled by Boston & Maine railroad members of the brotherhoods of engineers, firemen, conductors, trainmen and telegraphers on a proposed joint agreement similar to the one now in effect on the New Haven system and the Delaware & Hudson railroad.

GIRLS DEPEND ON THEMSELVES.

Herrin, Ill., Oct. 23.—Telephone girls have secured an agreement with the local company, after organizing a union affiliated to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The union is recognized, wages are increased 10 per cent, an eight-hour day secured and provision is made for settling disputes in an amicable manner.

UPHOLSTERERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, Oct. 23.—Over 400 upholsterers are benefited by the decision of several manufacturers that they will pay wage increases demanded by the Upholsterers' union. These workers have been conducting an organizing campaign and have strengthened their union as a result.

NOW WANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 23.—A strike followed the discharge of several active unionists by the W. P. Davis company. Now the strikers are demanding the re-enstatement of the victimized machinists, an eight-hour day, a 40-cent minimum and pay for overtime.

DOG AN INDUSTRIAL HAZARD.

Olympia, Wash., Oct. 23.—The industrial insurance commission has ruled that dog bites are part of the professional hazards of a gas-meter reader. The commission allowed the claim of a Spokane meter reader who was bitten by a vicious "purp."

"MOVIE" MEN RAISE WAGES.

Peoria, Ill., Oct. 23.—Motion Picture Operators' union has signed a four-year contract with over a dozen picture houses in this city. For the first two years, the rate will be $19 a week; for the third year, $20, and for the fourth year, $21. The old rate was $18.

"WHITE PLAGUE" KILLS MEN IN PRIME OF LIFE

Columbus, O., Oct. 23.—Tuberculosis in Ohio strikes men in the prime of life and an analysis of deaths from this dreaded disease disproves the popular theory that farmers and open-air workers are exempt from the scourge.

These sinister characteristics of the white plague are shown by Dr. W. W. Bland, state register of vital statistics, in tables analyzing the number of deaths from tuberculosis in 1914, printed in the October number of the journal of the Ohio State Medical association.

The figures show that the larger number of males die from tuberculosis between the ages of 20 and 25, while the mortality rate is higher among females between the ages of 20 and 30. Comparatively few die from this disease before the age of 15 or after the age of 50.

In 1914, 397 males and 340 females died of tuberculosis between the ages of 25 and 29, while 352 males and 367 females died between the ages of 20 and 25.

During 1914, a total of 814 laborers and 336 farmers were included in the victims. The disease claimed 107 victims among clerks and stenographers and a like number among painters and paperhangers. The machine trades contributed 101 victims. A total of 41 teachers and professors succumbed to the disease, while it was the cause of death of 13 clergymen.

"The statistics present another reason why a permanent campaign should be carried on against tuberculosis," declared Dr. R. G. Paterson, director of the division of tuberculosis of the state board of health, in commenting on Dr. Bland's report. "Tuberculosis claims its victims at the time in their lives when they should be most useful to themselves, to their families and to the community. It strikes them down in their productive years and is therefore the most serious economic menace of all diseases."

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Oct. 23.—Figures issued by the United States department of labor, bureau of immigration, show that 27,413 immigrants were admitted to this country during the month of August.

The totals for preceding months are: July, 27,097; June, 23,499; May, 35,363; April, 31,765; March, 26,835; February, 23,704. During August Italy surrendered its lead in furnishing immigrants, being supplanted by Greece, with 2,124, followed by England, with 1,223. Italy is third in the list with 1,047. Japan contributes, 894; Ireland, 848; Norway, 573; Portugal, 533; France, 469; Russia, 377, and the German empire, 259.

The effect of war on immigration is shown in the report of November, 1913, when 21,044 Russians and 21,690 Italians were admitted. During this 1913 period immigration from other countries were: Germany, 3,129; England, 2,998; Ireland, 1,431; France, 947.

FAVORS PRISON CHANGES.

Oaklan[illegible] convicted of cri[illegible] to prison by a co[illegible] an by a judge, [illegible] Justice Frick, [illegible] Utah in an add[illegible] American Prison associat[illegible]

Justic[illegible] use of the honor s[illegible] was necessary f[illegible] if against confirmed crimin[illegible] to protect itself in the future by [illegible] ting weak men from becoming criminals. He urged the changing of conditions which cause crime rather than the too free use of the honor system among confirmed criminals.

MINIMUM WAGE INVESTIGATION.

Olympia, Wash., Oct. 23.—State Labor Commissioner Olson is conducting a minimum wage investigation to determine the effect, in as many individual cases as possible, of the minimum wage rulings effecting saleswomen, office workers, telephone operators, chambermaids and laundry and factory workers. Investigators will inquire into changes in wage rates, hours of work and whether any employes have lost their positions because of the minimum wage.

NEGROES' RIGHTS UPHELD.

Denver, Oct. 23.—In a decision by the federal court of appeals, Oklahoma election officials who interfere with the right of a negro to vote, must be punished. The court made this rule in the case of two officials who were charged with enforcing the "grandfather's clause" section of the Oklahoma election laws after same had been declared unconstitutional. This clause provided for educational qualifications. The accused officials were found guilty of conspiracy in denying the right of suffrage to negroes.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Indianapolis, Oct. 23.—Differences between the Typographical union and local newspaper publishers have been adjusted after months of negotiations. A five-year agreement has been signed. Wages are increased $1.50 a week until October 1, 1916, when an additional $1.50 will be paid. A six-hour day shall be the rule for Fourth of July, Labor day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

YEARLY VACATION WITH PAY.

Indianapolis, Oct. 23.—Officers of the International Typographical union have been notified that the Oklahoma agricultural and mechanical college at Stillwater, Okla., has increased wages of its printers $1 a week and also placed them on an annual salary basis, which will entitle them to a two-weeks' vacation with full pay each year.

TEXTILE WORKERS WIN.

Philadelphia, Oct. 23.—After a nine months' strike Hosiery Workers' union No. 696, affiliated to the United Textile Workers of America, has won its strike against a 20 per cent wage reduction.

There will be no discrimination of employes because of strike activities.

ALABAMA PRINTERS UNITE.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., Oct. 23.—Printers of this city have formed a union, chartered by the International Typographical union. All newspapers and job printing offices have agreed to recognize the new organization.

JOHN D. OFFERS NOTHING NEW.

San Francisco, Oct. 23.—"Rockefeller's 'new' plan isn't new," says Editor Barry of the Star. "It is merely an old plan of coercion under a new name, with the Rockefeller halo around the name."

MEAT CUTTERS ORGANIZE.

Springfield, Mass., Oct. 23.—Meat cutters are perfecting their organization preparatory to presenting demands for a reduction of working hours.

WILL QUESTION CANDIDATES.

Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 23.—The Trades and Labor Council has prepared the following questions to be submitted to candidates for the United States senate:

Will you urge and support by your voice and vote the passage of an immigration law containing the "literacy test," even to the extent of voting for it over the veto of the President of the United States?

Will you favor a domestic convict labor bill which will enable the several states to regulate convict labor, including the admission of convict-made goods from other states?

Will you favor abolishing the importation of goods made in whole or in part by convict labor?

Will you favor a law prohibiting the interstate transportation of goods made by child labor?

Will you favor a liberal compensation law for federal employes, for working people employed in the District of Columbia and for railroad employes in interstate commerce?

Will you favor labor safety laws, to be administered by the United States department of labor?

Will you favor amending the hours of service (railroad men's 16-hour) law, with a minimum penalty provision incorporated?

Will you favor an eight-hour law for railroad telegraphers employed in interstate commerce?

Will you favor a liberal and comprehensive industrial education of vocational and trade-training bill?

Will you oppose any amendments to the present seamen's law which will endanger public safety or interfere with the liberty and fair working conditions of seamen?

JUDGE UPHOLDS FREE PRESS.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 23.—Courts are liable to err and a free press and a free people are entitled to criticise, in a fair manner, the actions of courts, declared Judge Henry Lamm, of Sedalia in an address before the annual meeting of the Missouri State Bar association.

"Courts are man's invention, the result of a slow evolution, and are human institutions," said Judge Lamm. "The courts have human limitations and frailties, hence are liable to err and stand to have their errors hammered out on the anvil of public discussions and cured by exposures. It is vain to contend they are immune from just scrutiny and criticism to keep them up to high efficiency of service. I maintain the proposition that a free people, and therefore a free press, may examine, discuss, question or defend the doctrines and acts of their courts. I do not believe that great courts and judges impugn this general rule or seek its modification.

"The true attitude of the courts to the newspapers is found in the great judgments of great courts, the great opinions of great judges upholding the right of a decent press to be free to discuss with manly frankness and fearlessness those officials, those men, those principles, those things lying close to the public weal."

COMPANY WANTED TO KNOW.

Springfield, Mass., Oct. 23.—Officers of the Duckworth Chain and Manufacturing company had a suspicion that their employes were becoming inoculated with the eight-hour germ so common in this vicinity.

To satisfy itself the management posted a notice in the shop requesting employes to vote "yes" if they intended to strike if an eight-hour demand was refused, and to vote "no" if they were willing to wait until June 1, next year.

By a vote of over 33 to 1 the employes declared for a 48-hour week and a strike if the demand was not granted.

This emphatic declaration failed to convince the company and its employes struck. Last Monday the management concluded these workers were really in earnest and announced that the 48-hour week would be granted, and wage scales readjusted.

"ALL UNION IS LOS ANGELES."

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 23.—"All union is Los Angeles" is the statement of Ladies' Garment Workers' union No. 52, in its announcement that every shop in this city has signed an agreement. The old contract expired several months ago and it is hinted that some of the proprietors favored experimenting with nonunionism, which they referred to as "the open shop." But this cry of union antagonists has lost much of its popularity in Los Angeles, and after many conferences all manufacturers renewed former relations.

STATE BOARD ORGANIZED.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 23. — The state workmen's compensation board has elected Harry A. Mackey, of Philadelphia, chairman and perfected the greater part of its organization. The board has divided the state into eight districts for referees, and it is announced that no inconvenience shall be suffered by employers or employes in any section of a compensation district, because the headquarters of the referee for that district may be located at a distance from the locality where the claim is to be settled.

DOES NOT INCLUDE CONVICTS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 23.—City Solicitor Ryan has ruled that the state compensation law does not apply to convicts who sustain injuries in or about the shops of the country prison. It is held that the term "employe," as used in the act is synonymous with servant and includes all natural persons who perform services for another for a valuable consideration.

GIVES THE REASON.

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 23.—The Union Record give this reason why "the miners voted solidly for the Rockefeller adjustment plan:"

"They voted solidly for Sheriff Farr every year and they voted solidly for Governor Carlson. Why shouldn't they, with the mine superintendent as teller of the election?"

AGAINST AMALGAMATION.

Cincinnati, Oct. 23.—The International Molders' Journal reports that the referendum vote of iron molders on the plan to amalgamate unions in the iron industry resulted as follows: Against, 10,758; in favor, 1,946.

BAKERS ORGANIZING.

Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 23.—Bakers in this city are conducting an organizing campaign, assisted by officers of their international union. It is stated that three-fourths of Rochester's bakery workers are members of organized labor.

LABOR FORWARD IN OMAHA.

Omaha, Oct. 23.—Trade unionists in this city have launched a labor forward movement and are asking international organizations to send representatives to aid in the work.

LEHIGH CEMENT CO. LOCKED OUT WORKERS

Mitchell, Ind., Oct. 23.—Cement workers at this place, who were locked out over 20 months ago by the Lehigh Portland Cement company, are as determined to win as when the superintendent declared "there is too much unionism around here."

The company practically owns Mitchell. There is no other occupation or industry the people can turn to and the company found little difficulty enforcing a wage scale that ran as low as 14 cents an hour for a 12-hour day.

In 1913 a federal union of cement workers was organized and chartered by the American Federation of Labor, as workers in this industry have no international or national union. With a membership of over 300 memb[illegible] the organization attracted th[illegible] tention of the company an[illegible] uary of the following year [illegible] agement served notice on a[illegible] of the union and about 40 [illegible] tive members of the local t[illegible] were laid off indefinitely [illegible] they were disloyal to the c[illegible] and were trying to make oth[illegible] ployes discontented." Later [illegible] member of the union was disch[illegible] When the locked out men parad[illegible] streets as a protest against th[illegible] policy they were attacked by strikebreakers. The unionists defended themselves and 13 were then arrested, charged with murder. Efforts have been continually made to discourage these workers by stories of fake settlements. At one time the union's charter was stolen and "company men" declared the organization had surrendered its charter and dissolved the union.

President Gompers and other officials of the A. F. of L. have been in constant communication with these workers who have received both financial and moral assistance.

At the present time one mill is shut down and shipments from the company's other mill at this place is light.

The Lehigh Portland Cement company has mills in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington and the Mitchell cement workers request all unionists and sympathizers to assist them in every honorable way that they may be accorded the right to organize and better working conditions.

LUDLOW RECALLED.

New York, Oct. 23.—Organized labor is a unit in its opposition to the new state constitution, which will be voted on Nov. 2. The most objectional feature of the new constitution is the provision which would make possible complete rulership by the military power in times of strike.

In a letter forwarded by President Shay to all state members of the International Alliance of the Stage Employes of America, that official says:

"For your own protection you are urged to read this proposed constitution most carefully. Note well the danger which lurks in the section permitting the military to supplant the civil courts in times of stress. To those who still recall the actions of the soldiery of Ludlow and in Colorado, the menace is at once appreciated. Remove the danger by voting 'no' on the proposed constitution on next election day.

"Should the organized labor vote of this state refuse to interest itself in this matter, and the constitution, as proposed, becomes law, the time may come all too soon when the toiler will realize the suffering and hardship which is visited upon labor when, at the behest of the employing class, the military deny to him civil justice."

The unionists are urging the adoption of the women's suffrage amendment, which was passed by the last state legislature.

ASSAILS POLITICS IN BUREAU.

Mansfield, O., Oct. 23.—Interference by politicians with the workings of the state industrial commission tends to weaken the effectiveness of that organization, declared ex-President Duffy, of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters, in a speech before the state federation of labor convention.

The speaker is a member of the state commission, and while approving the activity of men in political affairs, he declared "there are some things that should be placed above mere partisan politics, and the humanitarian work entrusted to the industrial commission is one of them.

"The greatest menace to the state insurance fund today is the spoils system," said Duffy. "Ever since the compensation law has been in effect in Ohio that has been the one thing which the employers of the state have feared; and it has been the one thing in which the enemies of the law, the insurance men, have placed their hopes of being able to ultimately destroy, the state insurance feature."

CARRANZA RECOGNIZED.

Washington, Oct. 23.—The de facto government of Mexico, with Gen. Carranza as its chief executive, was formally recognized by the United States last Tuesday when Secretary Lansing handed a letter to this effect to Carranza's confidential agent in this city. Similar letters are being forwarded the agent by South American countries, and it is expected that European nations will take like action in the near future, followed by the appointment of ambassadors.

The result of this policy will mean that all nations will treat other contestants for control of Mexican affairs as rebels to that country.

A VICTIM OF STUPIDITY!

Washington, Oct. 23.—The Washington Times makes this comment on the University of Pennsylvania trustees' statement for dismissing Prof. Nearing:

"Certainly if Nearing was merely 'misunderstood' he ought not to pay a penalty for the stupidity of parents and public who would not understand. If the trustees' apology is correct, then it would appear that Nearing was dropped because people who didn't know what he was driving at, objected to him."

REFUSE COMPROMISE.

Schenectady, N. Y., Oct. 23.—Employes of the General Electric company, on strike for an eight-hour day, have rejected a compromise offer, made by the general manager. The compromise provided for a 5 per cent wage increase now with a nine and one-half hour day, and another 5 per cent increase in one year and a nine-hour day.

CAUSES FOR EASTERN STRIKE.

Worcester, Mass., Oct. 23.—Long hours, small pay, and a reduction in wages during slack periods were given as causes for the strike at the Whitcomb Blaisdell plant by some of the employes at a public hearing conducted by the state board of conciliation and arbitration.